



Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

December 13, 2022

Dear Montgomery County Councilmembers,

Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC) is a local volunteer organization dedicated to improving Sligo Creek, the part and its watershed. FOSC is a long-time participant in the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (AWRP), the regional effort of governments, non-profit organizations, the Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) and others to enhance and improve the Anacostia River Watershed. The AWRP includes Montgomery County.

Friends of Sligo Creek members have and continue to work to increase general awareness of eastern Montgomery County's place in the Anacostia Watershed. We have done this because it is a fact of geography, and in the belief that if residents know they live in the Anacostia Watershed they are more likely to become willing and enthusiastic participants in the larger Anacostia restoration effort.



For example, one successful effort was to get "Anacostia Watershed" added to regional stream crossing signs on some state roads.

On the other hand, we unsuccessfully attempted to get Montgomery Parks to work with counterparts to develop a unified, cross-jurisdictional strategy for the Anacostia trail system. Such a strategy could create a coordinated signage system and promote the Anacostia trail system as a unified entity with destinations of interest in all jurisdictions. Having received assurances from both Prince George's County and District representatives that they would be happy to meet and work on this, Friends of Sligo Creek and other representatives of the AWCAC met with Montgomery Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson and staff on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Mr. Anderson refused to have the Montgomery Parks

participate in developing an Anacostia trail strategy, saying that he preferred that the Montgomery County trails reflect exclusively their ownership by Montgomery Parks.

Professor Jordan Boyd-Graber, a Silver Spring (Montgomery Hills) resident who uses the Anacostia trail system to commute by bicycle regularly to College Park, confirms that the physical trail system itself is quite satisfactory. However, he finds the lack of a coordinated signage system to be a significant barrier to cross-jurisdictional awareness and more widespread actual use. Friends of Sligo Creek members also believe it is a missed opportunity to help make residents aware that they live in the Anacostia Watershed and the implications of that fact.

The Montgomery County Council now has an opportunity to appoint a new Planning Board Chair. We ask that you appoint someone who will be willing to work with partners in creating a promotional strategy for the regional Anacostia trail system, as well as other important cross-jurisdictional efforts. Rivers and creeks know no human boundaries. Additionally, we hope that all of you will also look for any opportunities to expand your collaborative efforts supporting the Anacostia watershed and its environmental needs.

Sincerely yours,

Kit Gage

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